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Remarks

I. OBJECTION TO THE ABSTRACT

The Abstract is objected to because it exceeds 150 words. The Abstract has been amended to reduce the number of words to 134.

II. THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-34 are pending in the application. The applicants have amended Claims 13 and 34 to correct typographical errors.

III. CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 USC § 102(e)

Claims 1-34 are rejected under 35 USC § 102(e) as being anticipated by United States patent no. 6,662,332 of Kimmitt. The applicants respectfully traverse the rejection on the grounds that the official action does not set forth a proper *prima facie* case of anticipation and on the grounds that Kimmitt does not disclose every element recited in the claims.

A. Claims 1-3, 11-13, 16-18, 19-21, 27-30 and 32-34

With reference to Claims 1-3, 11-13, 16-18, 19-21, 27-30 and 32-34, the official action states:

> Kimmitt discloses a method and apparatus for detecting the location of burst errors or reducing the susceptibility to burst errors in serially transmitted data, FIGS. 1, 2 and 6, comprising:
> A resettable scrambler (32, FIG. 2) that scrambles the input data by exclusive ORing the input data with a pseudo random binary sequence (PRBS). The exclusive OR (XOR) logic 64 receives as inputs, over the TXP bus, the extended data word comprising the received data word(s) and the ECC generated by the Error Code Logic 30 (FIG. 2).
> A seed payload field (seed register 54, FIG. 3) using the presettable scrambler (32) to generate fields of a test sequence as an input to the framing signal generator 34, where FIG. 3 illustrates in more detailed the logic for the scrambler in FIG. 2.
> Transmit logic (14, shown in greater detail in FIG. 2) for transmitting the fields of the test sequence and receive logic (16, shown in greater detail in FIG. 6) for receiving the corresponding test sequence fields, using serial data channel 24 having a transmit side upstream and a receive side downstream.
> Descrambler 92 (FIG. 6) for descrambling the received test sequence fields

using the presettable descrambler (92) to generate respective recovered test sequence fields.

Error check logic (94) for detecting the differences between the received test sequence fields and the seed payload field, as errors. The error check logic 94 provides an indication of an error in a data word or alternatively, generates a syndrome based upon the received data word that may be employed to correct an error in a recovered data word if an error correction code is used.

1. Claim 1

The applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of Claim 1 on the grounds that the official action does not set forth a proper *prima facie* case of anticipation with reference to Claim 1 and because Kimmitt does not disclose every element recited in Claim 1.

Claim 1 recites: "scrambling a seed payload field using the presettable scrambler to generate fields of a test sequence;". The applicants respectfully submit that the above-quoted portion of the official action does not indicate where Kimmitt's disclosure may be found a teaching of "scrambling a seed payload field using the presettable scrambler to generate fields of a test sequence;". The above-quoted portion of the official action indicates that Kimmitt discloses scrambling extended data words with a PRBS. The extended data words are derived from the input data. The above-quoted portion of the official action is silent with respect to Kimmitt's scrambling generating a test sequence. Accordingly, the applicants respectfully submit that the official action has not set forth a proper *prima facie* case of anticipation with respect to this element of Claim 1.

The applicants have been unable to find anything in Kimmitt's disclosure that teaches or suggests that scrambler 32 is used to scramble the seed data provided by register 54. Kimmitt clearly teaches that the output of scrambler 32 is the result of XORing a PRBS $X<m:0>$ with extended data words $TXP<m:0>$ derived from the input bit stream to generate cipher data $TXCI<m:0>$ (col. 5, lines 15-19). Accordingly, the applicants respectfully submit that Kimmitt does not disclose "scrambling a seed payload field using the presettable scrambler ...;",

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as recited in Claim 1.

The applicants have been unable to find anything in Kimmitt's disclosure that teaches or suggests that scrambling the extended data words using scrambler 32 generates a test sequence. The low order polynomials exemplified by Kimmitt would make any sequence generated by Kimmitt's Interleaver unsuitable for this purpose. Moreover, the product of scrambling the extended data words using Kimmitt's scrambler 32 would be useless as a test sequence because the identity of the extended data words is not known at the receiving end, as would be necessary to detect errors longer than the interleave period introduced by the data communication system. Accordingly, the applicants respectfully submit that Kimmitt does not disclose "scrambling a seed payload field ... to generate fields of a test sequence;", as recited in Claim 1.

Finally, Claim 1 recites: "detecting differences between the recovered test sequence fields and the seed payload field as errors.".

The applicants respectfully disagree with the reading of Kimmitt set forth in the official action. Kimmitt's error check logic 94 simply detects a difference between the received error correction code (ECC) and the generated ECC and provides an error indication of the two ECCs do not match or provides an indication of a single-bit error (see col. 11, lines 58-67). The applicants have been unable to find anything in Kimmitt's disclosure that teaches or suggests that his error check logic 94 receives either a seed payload field or recovered test sequence fields, as would be necessary to detect differences between these data elements. The applicants therefore submit that Kimmitt's element 94 is incapable of performing the function of "detecting differences between the recovered test sequence fields and the seed payload field as errors." Accordingly, the applicants respectfully submit that Kimmitt does not disclose "detecting differences between the recovered test sequence fields and the seed payload field as errors.", as recited in Claim 1.

The applicants respectfully submit that, because the official action has not

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set forth a proper *prima facie* case of anticipation with respect to Claim 1 and because Kimmitt does not disclose every element of Claim 1, Claim 1 is improperly rejected. The applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejection of Claim 1.

The applicants further submit that the rejection of Claims 2-10 is improper at least because of these claims' dependence on Claim 1. The applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejection of Claims 2-10.

2. Claims 2 and 3

The applicants respectfully submit that Claims 2 and 3 are improperly rejected because the official action has set forth no proper *prima facie* case of anticipation with respect to these claims and because Kimmitt does not disclose every element of these claims.

The official action does not indicate where in Kimmitt's disclosure may be found a disclosure of the subject matter recited in Claims 2 and 3. Specifically, with reference to Claim 2, the official action does not indicate where in Kimmitt's disclosure may be found a disclosure of "in presetting the presettable scrambler and in scrambling the seed payload field, a combination of the preset state and the seed payload field causes the presettable scrambler to generate the test sequence to include a desired bit pattern." With reference to Claim 3, the official action does not indicate where in Kimmitt's disclosure may be found a disclosure of "in scrambling a seed payload field, a sequence of different payload fields is scrambled using the presettable scrambler to generate the test sequence to include corresponding different desired bit patterns".

The applicants have been unable to find anything in Kimmitt's disclosure that teaches or suggests the subject matter recited in Claims 2 and 3. Specifically, the applicants have been unable to find anything in Kimmitt's disclosure that teaches or suggests that the result of scrambling the extended data words using Kimmitt's scrambler 32 could be used as a test sequence, and that the preset state

of the scrambler and the seed payload field can be chosen to cause the presettable scrambler to generate the test sequence to include a desired bit pattern, for example, one that applies a predetermined stress to the data communication system. Instead, Kimmitt's scrambler 32 is used exclusively for its traditional purpose, namely, to "provide DC balance, insert transitions and spread the signal spectrum across available bandwidth to reduce EMI." (col.4, lines 34-36). The applicants therefore respectfully submit that the rejection of Claims 2 and 3 is improper and respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejection of Claims 2 and 3.

3. Claims 11-13

The applicants respectfully submit that Claims 11-13 are improperly rejected because the official action has set forth no proper *prima facie* case of anticipation with respect to these claims and because Kimmitt does not disclose every element recited in these claims.

The official action does not indicate where in Kimmitt's disclosure may be found a disclosure of the subject matter recited in Claims 11-13. Specifically, with reference to Claim 11, the official action does not indicate where in Kimmitt's disclosure may be found a disclosure of an ability of Kimmitt's scrambler 32 to operate in a self-test operating mode in addition to its normal operating mode. With reference to Claim 12, the official action does not indicate where in Kimmitt's disclosure may be found a disclosure of "in presetting the presettable scrambler and in scrambling the seed payload field, a combination of the preset state and the seed payload field causes the presettable scrambler to generate the test sequence to include a desired bit pattern." With reference to Claim 13, the official action does not indicate where in Kimmitt's disclosure may be found a disclosure of "in scrambling a seed payload field, a sequence of different payload fields is scrambled using the presettable scrambler to generate the test sequence to include corresponding different desired bit patterns".

Moreover, the applicants have been unable to find anything in Kimmitt's disclosure that teaches or suggests the subject matter recited in Claims 11-13. The applicants therefore respectfully submit that the rejection of Claims 11-13 is improper and respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejection of Claims 11-13.

The applicants further submit that the rejection of Claims 12-15 is improper at least because of these claims' dependence on Claim 11. The applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejection of Claims 12-15.

4. Claims 16-18

The applicants respectfully submit that Claims 16-18 are improperly rejected because the official action has set forth no proper *prima facie* case of anticipation with respect to these claims and because Kimmitt does not disclose every element recited in these claims.

The official action does not indicate where in Kimmitt's disclosure may be found a disclosure of the subject matter recited in Claims 16-18. Specifically, with reference to Claim 16, the official action does not indicate where in Kimmitt's disclosure may be found a disclosure of an ability of Kimmitt's descrambler 92 to operate in a self-test operating mode in addition to its normal operating mode. With reference to Claim 18, the official action does not indicate where in Kimmitt's disclosure may be found a disclosure of "detecting an end bit sequence in the received test sequence fields; and presetting the presettable descrambler to the preset state when the end bit sequence is detected."

The applicants have been unable to find anything in Kimmitt's disclosure that teaches or suggests the subject matter recited in Claims 16-18. Kimmitt's failure to disclose "detecting differences between the recovered test sequence fields and the seed payload field as errors" as recited in Claim 16 is discussed above with reference to Claim 1. The applicants therefore respectfully submit that

the rejection of Claims 16-18 is improper and respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejection of Claims 16-18.

5. Claim 19

The applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of Claim 19 on the grounds that the official action does not set forth a proper *prima facie* case of anticipation with reference to Claim 19 and because Kimmitt does not disclose every element recited in Claim 19 arranged as recited in the claim.

Claim 19 recites: "a seed payload field source;" and "a presettable scrambler including an input connected to the seed payload field source and an output coupled to a data transmission medium, the presettable scrambler being presettable to a preset state;". The applicants respectfully submit that the above-quoted portion of the official action does not indicate where Kimmitt's disclosure may be found a teaching of "a seed payload field source" connected to the input of the presettable scrambler. Kimmitt's seed register 54 constitutes part of scrambler 32 and so cannot accurately be said to be connected to the input of scrambler 32. Accordingly, the applicants respectfully submit that the official action has not set forth a proper *prima facie* case of anticipation with respect to this element of Claim 19.

The applicants further submit that the above-quoted portion of the official action does not indicate where Kimmitt's disclosure may be found a teaching of "a presettable scrambler including an input connected to the seed payload field source and an output coupled to a data transmission medium, the presettable scrambler being presettable to a preset state". As the official action indicates, Kimmitt discloses scrambling the extended data words derived from the input data with a PRBS, not a seed payload field. Accordingly, the applicants respectfully submit that the input of Kimmitt's scrambler 32 is connected to Error Code Logic 30 and not to seed register 54 as indicated in the official action. Therefore, the applicants respectfully submit that the official action has not set

forth a proper *prima facie* case of anticipation with respect to this element of
Claim 19.

The applicants have been unable to find anything in Kimmitt's disclosure
that teaches or suggests that seed register 54 is connected to the input of
scrambler 32. As noted above, Kimmitt's Figure 3 shows seed register 54 as part of
scrambler 32. See also col. 4, line 66-col. 5, line 3. Kimmitt clearly teaches that
the input of scrambler 32 is connected to receive extended data words
TXP<m:0> derived by error code logic 30 from the input bit stream. Kimmitt
teaches that scrambler 32 operates to generate cipher data TXCI<m:0> (col. 5,
lines 15-19) by scrambling the extended data words with a PRBS. Accordingly,
the applicants respectfully submit that Kimmitt cannot accurately be said to
disclose "a seed payload field source [connected to the input of the presettable
scrambler]" and "a presettable scrambler including an input connected to the seed
payload field source and an output coupled to a data transmission medium, the
presettable scrambler being presettable to a preset state", as recited in Claim 19.

Finally, Claim 19 recites: "an error detector including an input connected
to the output of the presettable descrambler, the error detector operating to
generate an error indication when a recovered test sequence field output by the
presettable descrambler differs from the seed payload field." The applicants
respectfully disagree with the reading of Kimmitt's disclosure set forth in the
official action with reference to error check logic 94. Kimmitt's error check logic
94 simply detects a difference between the received error correction code (ECC)
and the generated ECC and provides an error indication of the two ECCs do not
match or provides an indication of a single-bit error (see col. 11, lines 58-67). The
applicants have been unable to find any indication in Kimmitt's disclosure that his
error check logic 94 receives either a seed payload field or recovered test
sequence fields. The applicants therefore submit that Kimmitt's error check logic
94 is incapable of "operating to generate an error indication when a recovered
test sequence field output by the presettable descrambler differs from the seed

payload field." Accordingly, the applicants respectfully submit that Kimmitt does not disclose "an error detector including an input connected to the output of the presettable descrambler, the error detector operating to generate an error indication when a recovered test sequence field output by the presettable descrambler differs from the seed payload field.", as recited in Claim 19.

Accordingly, the applicants respectfully submit that, because the official action has not set forth a proper *prima facie* case of anticipation with respect to Claim 19 and because Kimmitt does not disclose every element of Claim 19 arranged as recited in the claim, Claim 19 is improperly rejected. The applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejection of Claim 19.

The applicants further submit that the rejection of Claims 20-26 is improper at least because of these claims' dependence on Claim 19. The applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejection of Claims 20-26.

6. Claims 20 and 21

The applicants respectfully submit that Claims 20 and 21 are improperly rejected because the official action has set forth no proper *prima facie* case of anticipation with respect to these claims and because Kimmitt does not disclose every element of these claims.

The official action does not indicate where in Kimmitt's disclosure may be found a disclosure of the subject matter recited in Claims 20 and 21. Specifically, with reference to Claim 20, the official action does not indicate where in Kimmitt's disclosure may be found a disclosure of "in which a combination of the seed payload field and the preset state of the presettable scrambler is selected to cause the presettable scrambler to output at least one desired bit pattern." With reference to Claim 21, the official action does not indicate where in Kimmitt's disclosure may be found a disclosure of "in which the seed payload field generator

is configured to generate a sequence of different seed payload fields to cause the presettable scrambler to output corresponding different desired bit patterns".

The applicants have been unable to find anything in Kimmitt's disclosure that teaches or suggests the subject matter recited in Claims 20 and 21.

Accordingly, the applicants respectfully submit that Claims 20 and 21 are improperly rejected and therefore respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejection of Claims 20 and 21.

7. Claims 27-30

The applicants respectfully submit that Claims 27-30 are improperly rejected because the official action has set forth no proper *prima facie* case of anticipation with respect to these claims and because Kimmitt does not disclose every element of these claims.

The official action does not indicate where in Kimmitt's disclosure may be found a disclosure of the subject matter recited in Claims 27-30. Specifically, with reference to Claim 27, the official action does not indicate where in Kimmitt's disclosure may be found a disclosure of an ability of Kimmitt's scrambler 32 to operate in a self-test operating mode in addition to a normal operating mode. Moreover, the official action does not indicate where in Kimmitt's disclosure may be found a disclosure of the "payload field source" and the "seed payload field source" recited in Claim 27. With reference to Claim 28, the official action does not indicate where in Kimmitt's disclosure may be found a disclosure of "a combination of the preset state and the seed payload field causes the presettable scrambler to generate the test sequence to include a desired bit pattern." With reference to Claim 29, the official action does not indicate where in Kimmitt's disclosure may be found a disclosure of "the seed payload field generator is configured to generate a sequence of different seed payload fields to cause the presettable scrambler to generate the test sequence to include corresponding different desired bit patterns". With reference to Claim 30, the

official action does not indicate where in Kimmitt's disclosure may be found a disclosure of "a detector that detects an end bit sequence in the test sequence; and a controller that presets the presettable scrambler to the preset state when the detector detects the end bit sequence".

The applicants have been unable to find anything in Kimmitt's disclosure that teaches or suggests the subject matter recited in Claims 27-30.

The applicants therefore respectfully submit that the rejection of Claims 27-30 is improper and respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejection of Claims 27-30.

The applicants further submit that the rejection of Claims 28-31 is improper at least because of these claims' dependence on Claim 27. The applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejection of Claims 28-31.

8. Claims 32-34

The applicants respectfully submit that Claims 32-34 are improperly rejected because the official action has set forth no proper *prima facie* case of anticipation with respect to these claims and because Kimmitt does not disclose every element recited in these claims.

The official action does not indicate where in Kimmitt's disclosure may be found a disclosure of the subject matter recited in Claims 32-34. Specifically, with reference to Claim 32, the official action does not indicate where in Kimmitt's disclosure may be found a disclosure of Kimmitt's descrambler having an ability to operate in a self-test operating mode in addition to a normal operating mode. With reference to Claim 33, the official action does not indicate where in Kimmitt's disclosure may be found a disclosure of "a controller that operates occasionally to preset the presettable descrambler to preset state". With reference to Claim 34, the official action does not indicate where in Kimmitt's disclosure may be found a disclosure of "the controller includes a detector

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operating to detect an end bit sequence in the recovered test sequence fields; and the controller operates to preset the presettable scrambler to the preset state when the detector detects the end bit sequence."

The applicants have been unable to find anything in Kimmitt's disclosure that teaches or suggests the subject matter recited in Claims 32-34. Kimmitt's failure to disclose "an error detector including an input connected to the output of the descrambler, the error detector operating to generate error indications when the recovered test sequence fields differ from the seed payload field" as recited in Claim 32 is discussed above with reference to Claim 19.

The applicants therefore respectfully submit that the rejection of Claims 32-34 is improper and respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejection of Claims 32-34.

B. Claims 4, 6-8, 10, 14 and 23-25

With reference to Claims 4, 6-8, 10, 14 and 23-25, the official action states that Kimmitt discloses:

> a payload field (seed register 54, FIG. 3) using the presettable scrambler (32) to generate a desired bit pattern using a pseudo random binary sequence (PRBS), by applying 18 levels of recursion to the LFSR equations to produce the bus wide pseudo random binary sequence generator structure illustrated in FIG. 3, (see column 5, line 20-25).

1. Claim 4

The applicants respectfully submit that Claim 4 is improperly rejected because the official action has not set forth a proper *prima facie* case of anticipation with respect to Claim 4 and because Kimmitt does not disclose every element recited in Claim 4.

The official action does not indicate where in Kimmitt's disclosure may be found a disclosure of the subject matter recited in Claim 4. Assuming that the above-quoted portion of the official action intends to allege that Kimmitt discloses a *seed* payload field (the term "payload field" as opposed to "seed payload field"

does not appear in Claim 4), the applicants disagree with the reading of Kimmitt's disclosure set forth in the official action. The embodiment of Kimmitt's scrambler 32 illustrated in Kimmitt's Figure 3 scrambles the extended data words received from error code logic 30, not the seed data received from seed register 54. The seed data is used only in the generation of the PRBS. Moreover, the official action does not indicate where in Kimmitt's disclosure may be found a disclosure of the remaining elements recited in Claim 4. Accordingly, the applicants respectfully submit that no proper *prima facie* case of anticipation is set forth in the official action with respect to Claim 4.

The applicants have been unable to find anything in Kimmitt's disclosure that teaches or suggests the subject matter recited in Claim 4. Specifically, the applicants have been unable to find anything in Kimmitt's disclosure that teaches or suggests that Kimmitt's Interleaver operates to perform the detecting, presetting and changing operations recited in Claim 4 on scrambler 32 or that Kimmitt's scrambler operates to perform the changing operation recited in Claim 4.

The applicants therefore respectfully submit that the rejection of Claim 4 is improper and respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejection of Claim 4.

2. Claims 6-8

The applicants respectfully submit that Claims 6-8 are improperly rejected because the official action has set forth no proper *prima facie* case of anticipation with respect to Claims 6-8 and because Kimmitt does not disclose every element recited in Claims 6-8.

The official action does not indicate where in Kimmitt's disclosure may be found a disclosure of the subject matter recited in Claims 6-8. Specifically, with reference to Claim 6, the official action does not indicate where in Kimmitt's disclosure may be found a disclosure that the seed payload field is a Local Fault payload field. With reference to Claim 7, the official action does not indicate

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where in Kimmitt's disclosure may be found a disclosure of "presetting the presettable scrambler to a preset state includes detecting an end bit sequence in the test sequence; and presetting the presettable scrambler to the preset state when the end bit sequence is detected". With reference to Claim 8, the official action does not indicate where in Kimmitt's disclosure may be found a disclosure of "detecting the end bit sequence in the recovered test sequence fields; and presetting the presettable descrambler to the preset state when the end bit sequence is detected."

The applicants have been unable to find anything in Kimmitt's disclosure that teaches or suggests the subject matter recited in Claims 6-8. A word search of Kimmitt's disclosure failed to find the term "Local Fault." Moreover, the applicants have been unable to find anything in Kimmitt's disclosure that teaches the ways of presetting a scrambler recited in Claims 7 and 8.

The applicants therefore respectfully submit that the rejection of Claims 6-8 is improper and respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejection of Claims 6-8.

3. *Claim 10*

The applicants respectfully submit that Claim 10 is improperly rejected because the official action has set forth no proper *prima facie* case of anticipation with respect to Claim 10 and because Kimmitt does not disclose every element recited in Claim 10.

The official action does not indicate where in Kimmitt's disclosure may be found a disclosure of the subject matter recited in Claim 10.

The applicants have been unable to find anything in Kimmitt's disclosure that teaches or suggests the subject matter recited in Claim 10. As noted above, Kimmitt's disclosure is devoid of any teaching regarding generating a test sequence.

Accordingly, the applicants therefore respectfully submit that the rejection

of Claim 10 is improper and respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejection of Claim 10.

4. Claim 14

The applicants respectfully submit that Claim 14 is improperly rejected because the official action has set forth no proper *prima facie* case of anticipation with respect to Claim 14 and because Kimmitt does not disclose every element recited in Claim 14.

The official action does not indicate where in Kimmitt's disclosure may be found a disclosure of the presetting process recited in Claim 14.

The applicants have been unable to find anything in Kimmitt's disclosure that teaches or suggests the presetting process recited in Claim 14. Kimmitt's disclosure is devoid of any teaching regarding presetting scrambler 32 other than by the initial use of seed data.

Accordingly, the applicants therefore respectfully submit that the rejection of Claim 14 is improper and respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejection of Claim 14.

5. Claims 23-25

The applicants respectfully submit that Claims 23-25 are improperly rejected because the official action has set forth no proper *prima facie* case of anticipation with respect to Claims 23-25 and because Kimmitt does not disclose every element recited in Claims 23-25.

The official action does not indicate where in Kimmitt's disclosure may be found a disclosure of the subject matter recited in Claims 23-35. Specifically, with reference to Claim 23, the official action does not indicate where in Kimmitt's disclosure may be found a disclosure that the seed payload field is a Local Fault payload field. With reference to Claim 24, the official action does not indicate where in Kimmitt's disclosure may be found a disclosure of "a detector that

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detects an end bit sequence generated by the presettable scrambler; and a controller that operates in response to the detector to preset the presettable scrambler to the preset state". With reference to Claim 25, the official action does not indicate where in Kimmitt's disclosure may be found a disclosure of "an additional detector that detects the end bit sequence at the input of the presettable descrambler; and an additional controller that operates in response to the detector to preset the presettable descrambler to the preset state".

The applicants have been unable to find anything in Kimmitt's disclosure that teaches or suggests the subject matter recited in Claims 23-25. As noted above, a word search of Kimmitt's disclosure failed to find the term "Local Fault." Moreover, the applicants have been unable to find anything in Kimmitt's disclosure that teaches the ways of presetting a scrambler recited in Claims 24-25.

The applicants therefore respectfully submit that the rejection of Claims 23-25 is improper and respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejection of Claims 23-25.

C. Claims 5 and 22

With reference to Claims 5 and 22, the official action alleges that Kimmitt discloses:

> an idle payload field comprising an idle bit, which indicates when the transmitted character comprises an idle character. The idle bit reacquires the seed for use by the descrambler 92 (FIG. 6). The receive logic 16 detects when an Idle cell is being transmitted over the serial data channel 24. The scrambler seed is completely recovered in one idle period.

The applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of Claims 5 and 22 is improper because the rejection of Claims 1 and 19 on which Claims 5 and 22 respectively depend is improper for the reasons set forth above with reference to the independent claims. The applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejection of Claims 5 and 22.

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D. Claims 9, 15, 26 and 31

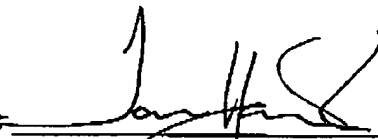With reference to Claims 9, 15, 26 and 31, the official action alleges that Kimmitt discloses:

> a framing signal generator 34, which generates a framing signal that is used by receive logic 16 (FIG. 1) to achieve word alignment following receipt of the serially transmitted data stream over the serial channel 24 (FIG. 1). The framing signal comprise a parity bit, a predetermined number of bits having a specified known value or any other suitable signal that may be used by receive logic 16 to achieve word framing following transmission of the serial data stream over the serial data channel 24.

The applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of Claims 9, 15, 26 and 31 is improper because the rejection of Claims 1, 11, 19 and 27 on which Claims 9, 15, 26 and 31 respectively depend is improper for the reasons set forth above with reference to the independent claims. The applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejection of Claims 9, 15, 26 and 31.

The applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the rejected claims. The applicants believe that the application as now amended is in condition for allowance, and respectfully request such favorable action. If any matters remain outstanding in the application, the Examiner is respectfully invited to telephone the applicants' attorney at (650) 485-3015 so that these matters may be resolved.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard C. Walker et al.

By: _____
      Ian Hardcastle
      Reg. No. 34,075

Agilent Technologies, Inc.   Dated: 04 06 10
Legal Department, MS DL429
P.O. Box 7599   Tel.: (650) 485-3015
Loveland, CO 80537-0599